

III. REMARKS

- **Present Application**

In this continuation application, Claims 1-18 have been cancelled by a previous Preliminary Amendment, and new claims 19-30 are now pending. Objected claims 20-30 have been amended following the examiner's suggestions.

- **Response to Objections**

The Examiner has issued an objection to claims 20-25 and 27-30 on the informalities that the former group depends from cancelled claim 1, and the latter from cancelled claim 11. Appropriate corrections have been made. Regarding claim 26, the extraneous letter "f" has been deleted from the clause "rug and clip assembly f," as per the examiner's suggestion.

- **Response to Rejections**

The Examiner has rejected claims 19, 20 and 22-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zoroufy (US patent non. 5,318,174) in view of Salrin, et al., (US patent no. 5,152,404) and Holt (US patent no. 2,483,051).

Applicant respectfully asserts that the examiner's obvious rejections cited in the 10 February 2004 office action, which Applicant respectfully traverses, are overcome in that the prior art of record does not show the combination assembly asserted in the present claims.

According to the examiner, "Zoroufy '174 discloses a rug dip for suspending a rug (Col. 2, line 65) having a channel shaped bracket (114) with top portion and front leg and rear leg extending perpendicularly therefrom and a clip mechanism of the cam action type having an inner jaw (92, figure 6) extending from the front leg and outer jaw (80) pivotally attached to the front leg and a cam arm (106) pivotally attached to the front leg to bias the inner and outer jaws into engagement with one another. Furthermore, Zoroufy disclose that the rod 22 to which the channel shaped bracket is mounted on can be rectangular bar (3, lines 28-30)." The examiner states that "However, Zoroufy does not show a non-slip material on the undersurface of the channel bracket.", with which the applicant agrees.

The examiner then cites a new reference Salrin, et al., (US patent no. 5,152,404) which shows an angled fixture and display assembly, "including an inverted, generally U-shaped mounting bracket designed to slidably clamp over a display standard [i.e., rectangular bar]" (col.3, lines 2-4). Indeed, nowhere in the patent is there non-slipperiness cited. In order to prevent articles sliding from the display assembly, Salrin discloses a support lock **40**, and a protective cap **45** (Col.5, lines 43-56). The examiner correctly points out that Salrin teaches the need for non-slip material disposed on ancillary parts other than the U-shaped mounting bracket, namely, on a distal end of a locking leg **43** of support lock **40**. The non-slip material performs the function of a cap "to prevent scuffing or scratching of interfacing surfaces, And for safety during handling and assembly procedures." The non-slip material simply does not have any non-sliding relationship with the U-shaped mounting bracket designed to slidably clamp over the display standard. It is respectfully suggested that these various references cannot be combined without reference to applicant's own invention.

None of the applied references address the problem of rug clips sliding along the top edge of a door of a display rack when the door is swung about its hinges, and the rug possibly falling off the display racks. Applicant has claimed the disclosed rug clip in detail. The apparatus of Figs. 1-4 and claims 19-30 thereof, are believed to be novel and patentable over these various references, because there is not sufficient basis for concluding that the combination of claimed elements would have been obvious to one skilled in the art. That is to say, there must be something in the prior art or line of reasoning to suggest that the combination of these various references is desirable. We believe that there is no such basis for the combination. We therefore request respectfully that examiner H. H. Chan reconsider this rejection in view of these arguments and the amendments to the claims. The applicant believes that independent claims 19 and 26, and hence claims 20-25 and 27-30, dependent from claims 19 and 26, respectively, are allowable, and, therefore, respectfully requests early allowance of the same.

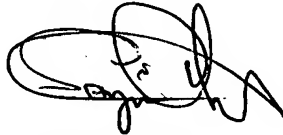
CONCLUDING REMARKS, REQUESTS AND FEE PAYMENTS

For all of the reasons set forth above, it is firmly believed that pending claims 19-30 are allowable. Early notification of allowance is solicited.

Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees that may be required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 in connection with the paper transmitted herewith, to Deposit Account No. 033-975.

Respectfully submitted,



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